

Abstract

Principal Professionalization in China: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategic Directions

Hongqi Chu & Xiu Chen Cravens

This paper provides an analytical review of the policy landscape of contemporary Chinese education, and the essential role of one million school principals in the national reform for “Quality-Oriented Education”. With cultural and historical context in mind, and the impact of political and societal forces taken into consideration, the authors examine the major challenges faced by Chinese schools and the demand for a new generation of school leaders. A critical assessment of existing principal training is conducted and a framework of strategic directions for systemic professionalization is proposed.